Underbool Primary School
Post Office Box 43
Underbool Vic 3509

Telephone: (03) 5094 6342

Email: underbool.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Dear Parent/Guardian

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Underbool Primary School for 2027.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disabilities.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Underbool Primary School offers a range of items and activities in addition to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: Fiona Scott, Principal, 03 5094 6342, fiona.scott@education.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and provide our school's phone number 03 5094 6342. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy, please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Scott
Principal

Kyra Nathan
School Council President

UNDERBOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL 2027 PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about financial assistance available for extracurricular activities such as camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.	$160	$[parent to complete]

Financial help for families

Underbool Primary School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms** - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact:

Kate Pole
Ph: 03 5094 6342. Email: kate.pole@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Via direct deposit to the Underbool Primary School Bank Account.

BSB 063 732

Account Number 10029655 (REF: student or family name)

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribution.

VICTORIA State Government | Department of Education

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families

FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.

FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools will provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link to the department's Parent Contributions policy.